

Deal unlikely to end Yemeni rift

By Assem Abdul Mohsen

Reuter

SANAA — Yemen's feuding leaders sign a peace deal next week but their mutual distrust is so deep that the accord is unlikely to end a crisis tearing the country apart, political sources say.

Both President Ali Ahdullah Saleh and his rival and deputy Vice-President Ali Saleh Al Beidh have said they will sign the document in Amman on Feb. 20, pledging full support for the political and economic reforms it contains.

Sheikh Sunan Abu Luhum, an independent member of an all-party committee that negotiated the deal and an influential tribal leader told a television interviewer on Saturday night: "There is simply no trust between the two sides."

Abdul Rahman Al Jefri, leader of the opposition Yemeni Peoples League and another member of the committee said: "Differences have handicapped the administration. Therefore it cannot and will not do anything."

"We will sign the accord before the eyes of the entire world, but nothing else will happen," Mr. Jefri said. "After the signing, each side will stick to his pre-signing position and start blaming the other for failing to implement the accord."

The sources said the accord, to be signed by all Yemeni political leaders in and outside the governing coalition, had little chance of success.

The feud had turned personal between Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh, the leaders of North and South Yemen respectively who engineered the merger of the two countries in 1990.

Mr. Saleh, an army colonel turned politician who ruled the conservative north part of Yemen from 1978, agreed under the accord to devolve some of his powers to the cabinet and to authorities in the region to appease Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party.

But the sources said reconciliation was only possible if Mr. Saleh, among other things, loosened his tight grip on the security forces and government purse strings.

Mr. Beidh and his YSP, who

before the merger ran southern Yemen as a Soviet-style one-party state, will have to effectively give up control of southern armed forces that have remained separate almost four years after union.

He would also have to cede control of rich oilfields in southern regions that continue to be run from the southern capital Aden, they said.

"All this looks impossible for the moment. It will take a long time for goodwill to be restored. Neither side is likely to concede any real powers until then," one source said.

An opposition source said: "Nothing has changed. They [the YSP and Saleh's General People's Congress] are paying lip service to the accord to placate public opinion."

"The real problem lies in who has the upper hand in running the country and controlling its resources," the source said.

Mr. Saleh wants Mr. Beidh and YSP ministers and officials, including Prime Minister Abu Bakr Al Attas, to return to Sanaa from Aden on the signing of the accord.

Mr. Beidh, whose party says 154 of its members have been killed since the merger, would like to see a start of implementing the accord before a gradual return to the capital Sanaa.

A northern colonel loyal to Mr. Saleh, Colonel Yahya Al Jefri, was seriously injured on Friday in the latest of a rash of political violence since July, GPC sources said.

Mr. Beidh, addressing a meeting in Aden last week, said he would seek a plebiscite if other partners in the coalition failed to implement the accord. Apart from the YSP and GPC, the coalition includes the Islamist Islamic Party of Parliamentary Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Ben Hussein Al Ahmar.

Mr. Saleh, in a message to the nation on the occasion of Ramadan which started on Friday called for the opening of a new page.

But one political source said: "The signing will be nothing more than a truce lasting perhaps until the end of Ramadan (mid March)."



An Afghan boy is comforted by his mother while being treated by a doctor at a Red Cross-supported south Kabul hospital. The boy suffers

from abdominal and leg wounds caused by an exploding rocket fired during fighting between rival factions (AFP photo)

Major urges Iran to lift Rushdie death sentence

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister John Major urged Iran Monday to revoke a five-year-old death edict on writer Salman Rushdie or face continued international isolation.

Mr. Rushdie, 46, has been in hiding under British police protection since his novel "The Satanic Verses" was denounced by Iran as blasphemy against Islam.

"We all want to make clear to the Iranian government that they cannot enjoy full and friendly relations with the rest of the international community unless and until we can be satisfied that there is no further direct or indirect threat from the Iranian authorities to Mr. Rushdie's life or to that of others associated with his book," Mr. Major said in a statement.

"I hope very much that they will listen to the message," said the prime minister, who demonstrated his full support for Mr. Rushdie at a meeting with the Indian-born British author last May that provoked fury in Tehran.

Mr. Major's statement was issued to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the death order, issued in a "fatwa," or edict,

by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The book's Japanese translator has been murdered. The Italian translator has been attacked, and last October, Mr. Rushdie's Norwegian publisher William Nygaard was shot and seriously wounded in Oslo.

For five years, Mr. Rushdie has lived under constant protection of Scotland Yard's Special Branch, which still moves him around among an undisclosed number of safe houses.

The author's government protection has so far cost an estimated £5 million (\$7.5 million), of which he is said to have contributed more than \$500,000 of his own money.

On Monday, Rushdie supporters were turned away by the Iranian embassy in London. Monday as they tried to deliver a letter supporting the author.

"About a dozen members of the International Rushdie Defence Committee, including opposition Labour Deputy Mark Fisher and British novelist Julian Barnes, tried to deliver a message addressed to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, asking that he cancel the death sentence."

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U.N. officers said their forces would avoid being sucked into the Kismayu inter-clan violence and would only act in defense themselves if they are attacked.

They said there were no plans to evacuate the U.N. troops.

Ad officials said the Kismayu power struggle was unrelated to a plague of bomb attacks and shelling against aid agencies in the towns of Belet Huen, Baidoa and Buale in the last three weeks.

He said Gen. Morgan was believed to be in the northwest Somaliland port of Bosaso seeking support from Mohammad Ibrahim Egal, self-styled "president" of the breakaway republic of Somaliland.

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Deputies 'intend to probe' funds
diversion at Ministry of Education

makers, in response to
the minister "cannot tax chil-
dren on their education."

AMMAN — A number of
deputies are planning to officially question Minister of
Education Khaled Omari
about the diversion of funds
from students' contributions
to the ministry's budget for
purchasing cars for education

for danger
directors, parliamentary
sources have said.

AMMAN — The Lower House of
the Jordanian Parliament intends to probe
the matter further in the near
future, as law makers are
set to learn with justifications
given by Dr. Omari for
the spending JD 30,000 on the
purchase of cars for the
and the working ministry's directorates, Islamic
who will earn Islamic Action Front (IAF) demands
in the report. Deputy Abdel Aziz Jaber told
the Jordanian Times.

Dr. Omari had told law
makers, in response to questions by five deputies, that the amount was used for buying cars which will have a "positive effect" on the process of education and that the measure was essential for ministry officials to carry out their duties.

Dr. Omari said the diversion
of fund from the students' contributions was prompted by the lack of funds at the ministry.

Deputy Abdel Raouf
Rawabdeh rejected Dr. Omari's justification, saying that the ministry's action is "illegal and the use of contributions should be restricted to school equipment and building maintenance."

He added that students were
not responsible for the ministry's lack of funds and that

office in Turke
ordan, Japan to sign \$80m loan deal

development projects at a
meeting with Minister of Planning
Ziyad Fariz.

The minister voiced Jordan's
appreciation to Japan for its continued aid to support Jordan's industrial, services and commercial sectors and the balance of payments over the past five years, in addition to its efforts to reduce the kingdom's foreign debt burden.

Mr. Endo, who arrived Sun-
day on a three-day visit to Jordan, learnt about the Jordanian economic situation and

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural

Centre (6:30 p.m.-midnight).

Art exhibition entitled "Selections from the Artistic Works of

Terra Sancta High School Students" at Amman National

University (Salis Road).

Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French

Cultural Centre.

Art exhibition by Iraqi artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery — Mecca

Street.

Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa

Art Gallery in Fuheis (Tel. 729092).

Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat Al Funun

of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the

"permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists. (Tel.

643251/2)

Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali

Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

BOOK EXHIBITION

Book exhibition at the University of Jordan.

DRAMA

Drama in Arabic entitled "Happened on a Theatre Day" at

the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

PIANO RECITAL

Piano recital by pianist Joanne Hutchison at the Royal

Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

LECTURE

Lecture in Arabic entitled "International Facts — A Historical

Perspective Of Arab Heritage" by Dr. Mustafa Al Hyari at the

Arab Thought Forum at 7:30 p.m.

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Economy

Egypt cuts tariffs under IMF plan

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian government has cut import duties on a wide range of goods, many by 10 percentage points, as part of the economic reform package agreed with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The cuts are the third since 1991, when a first IMF agreement came into effect.

They have been under negotiation inside Egypt for months, with local industries saying they need to keep their tariff protection and other groups arguing that lowering the duties will reduce prices for consumers.

Finance Minister Mohammad Al Razaz told reporters the new rates gave local industry enough protection while at the same time cutting rates for essential commodities.

The duty on cement, one of the most controversial items, has fallen from 50 per cent to 20 per cent for bagged cement and 10 per cent for loose cement.

The duty on refined sugar goes down to 15 per cent from 20 per cent and on raw sugar to five per cent from 10. Egypt's

own sugar industry covers less than half of consumption.

The reductions took effect Monday morning.

Local industrialists failed in their attempt to push up the duty on imports of steel reinforcement bars, which remains at 20 per cent. They had asked for 30 per cent.

But publishers succeeded in their campaign to reduce the duty on paper, which comes down to 10 per cent from 15.

The ministry of agriculture had wanted to cut the duty on fertiliser imports but this is unchanged at 30 per cent.

For a wide range of consumer goods, such as small cars, household appliances and some electronic equipment, the new duty is 70 per cent instead of 80.

The government described 70 per cent as the new maximum tariff rate, though in fact there are higher rates for large cars, alcohol and other items considered to be luxuries.

Over the next few years, the government is to compress the range of duties even further and cut the number of exemptions.

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Belarus premier urges return to Soviet-style economy

MINSK (R) — Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich has urged a return to Soviet-style economic measures including fixed food prices and an end to all talk of shock therapy.

He said monetary and economic union with Russia was the only way to save the Belarus economy.

"Those who called for 'shock therapy' and wanted to speed up our moves towards a market economy are mistaken. We were in too much of a hurry and we need to go back," Mr. Kebich said in a televised speech Sunday night.

The premier said the government would soon ban "speculative trade" and regulate food prices by cabinet decree.

Belarus is one of the most conservative former Soviet republics. The government has privatised only three per cent of state property, well below levels in neighbouring Russia.

Iran plans new refineries

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, whose oil consumption has been rising rapidly, is planning two new refineries, an official said.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted deputy oil minister for engineering projects, Habib Aminifar, as saying that a new \$1.3 billion refinery at Bandare Abbas will come on stream during the second five-year plan which starts on March 21.

He said it will have an output of 232,000 barrels per day (b/d). Mostafa Khoee, director of offshore production at the National Iranian Oil Co., said in January the refinery would be finished in two years and have an output of around 300,000 b/d.

Mr. Aminifar said another plant at Asalouyeh, which Iranian oil officials have also referred to as the Bandar Taheri Refinery, will change 70,000 b/d of crude into various oil products."

Rome puts to rest 'day of rest' shopping rule

ROME (AP) — Romans were carrying something new on Sunday: Shopping bags.

The first day of a city code allowing seven-day-a-week commerce brought grumbles from traditionalists. But it put grins on the faces of many consumers relieved that Rome was finally joining other European capitals in relaxing "day of rest" rules.

"What a difference," said Giorgio Fonda, coming out of a department store with a Valentine's Day gift of perfume for his wife. "I have news for those against Sunday shopping: People work during the week. Sunday is the only day we can shop."

But opponents of Sunday shopping saw problems ahead.

Many small shop owners — who make up a large share of Rome's business community — say they'll be forced to work every day to compete. They argue that only large retailers have enough employees to staff the extra day.

Many other European countries have come under pressure to loosen traditional Sunday closing laws. Britain and Sweden have eased the regulations, while France and Germany have resisted major reforms.

Spain is going the other way. Under pressure from small merchants, its parliament passed a law this month allowing regions to override national laws requiring that stores be open at least eight Sundays or holidays a year.

The Vatican didn't rail against the change Sunday. But after Mayor Francesco Rutelli signed the law Feb. 2, the Vatican newspaper L'Espresso Romano carried a commentary saying that Sunday was a day of rest and reflection — a tradition worth

preserving.

"Sunday is for church and family, not trying on clothes," said Maria Cinini, walking along a main shopping thoroughfare.

It appeared, however, that few merchants decided to take advantage of the first legal Sunday of business. A group that pushed for Sunday shop hours estimated about 100 per cent of businesses opened.

Rome's shopping ordinance was allowed as an exception to a nationwide ban on Sunday shopping, and is being watched closely by other Italian cities considering similar measures.

The mayor said he believed that Sunday business hours will help promote tourism, which has declined slightly in Italy.

"For those who come to Rome, it's important to know that the monuments are not the only things open on Sunday," he said.

Some people also complain that consumerism is being elevated over religion and tradition.

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This overcame the effect of the government spending less on goods and services.

"Hence the economy should be able to grow right through the deficit reduction period," as long-term rates stay low, said the report prepared by the president's Council of Economic Advisors, chaired by Laura D'Andrea Tyson.

In the report, the White House takes much of the credit for lower interest rates, saying the budget deficit-cutting law passed last summer created a credible environment for lower rates by reducing the demand for credit and showing fiscal discipline.

The report said the current level of long-term interest rates appeared sustainable. "Clearly if inflation remains under control, bond yields have some way to fall to come into line with their historical real averages," it said.

But the report also warned that economic growth can be imperilled by taking deficit reduction too far.

According to the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), intra-Arab trade dropped by 14 per cent in 1991 due to the Gulf war and it

continued to fall in 1992. Inter-Arab exports dropped to 7.3 per cent of the total Arab exports in 1992 from 9.1 per cent in 1989 and imports fell to 7.2 per cent from 10 per cent.

Some Arab countries have embarked on plans to set up institutions to guarantee national exports while other are considering following suit as they press ahead with reforms to repair their ailing economies, said the study by the Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee (ACIG).

"The establishment of a network of export guarantee agencies in Arab countries, supported by the guarantee systems in ACIG and the Islamic Corporation for Guaranteeing Exports, will create a wide base for cooperation and this will give a strong push of efforts to develop inter-Arab trade," the Kuwaiti-based group said in a study, received here.

Lack of financial support for Arab exporters is among the main reasons blamed for the low trade among the Arab League's 22 members and for a persistent trade and balance of payments in most Arab nations.

Other factors include political differences, problems related to storage and transport, and high customs tariffs among Arab states despite a long-standing free trade zone agreement.

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The decline occurred despite a 6.6 per cent growth in Arab exports to \$107.6 billion in 1992 and 5.1 per cent in imports to \$136.4 billion.

"The decline underscores the need for intensifying efforts to improve inter-Arab trade and upgrade supporting services," the AMF said recently.

As part of a drive to encourage Arabs to press on with reforms to tackle their economic woes, the AMF created a \$500 million fund four years ago to finance inter-Arab trade through soft-term loans.

The Arab Trade Financing

Programme (ATFP) has approved nearly 80 credit applications with a value of \$244 million. But the figure falls far short of the fund's capacity of \$1 billion a year and experts blamed high customs tariffs and preference of foreign products.

Officials believe increasing trade among Arab countries is essential for their long-sought plans to establish a common market and would support the economies of member states that have launched reforms.

They explain that trade is the main sector in Arab economies, accounting for more than 70 per cent of the gross domestic product.

ACIG, another main Arab

league group, was set up around 15 years ago to guarantee investment but began to focus on financing exports in the

Jordan eases controls on foreign transfers

AMMAN (R) — Jordan has further eased foreign transfer controls on funds for personal needs and reexport credit in a move to boost confidence in the economy, a central bank official said Monday.

"The central bank's new move is in the direction of further liberalising restrictions on foreign currency, consolidating confidence and boosting the dinar's exchange rate," Ahmad Abdul Fattah, an assistant Central Bank governor, told Reuters.

The official, in charge of banking supervision, said new instructions sent to banks recently raised to 35,000 dinars (\$49,710) from 20,000 dinars (\$28,400) a year ceiling on personal transfers of medical

education, or family expenses.

The limit was imposed after a sharp devaluation of the dinar in 1989, sparked by re

cessionary crisis.

Mr. Abdul Fattah said the Central Bank was encouraged to ease the ceilings on transfers because this will "have a positive effect on confidence in the national economy."

Other new measures included abolishing money guarantees on reexported goods, all controls on non-resident foreign currency accounts and allowing loans in foreign exchange provided by local banks for imports of

shipments goods.

Jordan is boosting its role as a free trade reexport centre for goods to Iraq and neighbouring states after Middle East peace and the lifting of U.N.

economic sanctions on Iraq.

"We have cancelled a guarantee paid by importers on reexported goods amounting to 10 per cent of their value, which will increase importers' competitive advantage by re

ducing reexport costs," Mr. Abdul Fattah said.

Banks still need to notify the Central Bank of amounts in foreign exchange equivalent value to reexported goods, which importers need to prove they brought back to preserve the country's foreign reserves.

The official foreign exchange and gold reserves stood at a free market value of \$1.44 billion at end of November 1993 after being in the red in 1989.

The Central Bank also raised to 1,000 dinars (\$1410) ceiling on the value of goods which importers need not deposit its foreign exchange equivalent in banks.

But it will continue to let Jordanians move investment capital abroad only on a case by case basis. Bankers estimate Jordanians hold \$7 billion in assets and deposits abroad.

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Dollar dips below 104 yen

LONDON (AFP) — The dollar fell below 104 yen in trading on the London foreign currency markets early Monday afternoon, plunging to 103.80 yen for one dollar from 105.9 at the close in Tokyo and 107.66 in New York on Friday.

The is the lowest point reached by the greenback against the Japanese since Sept. 7, and Barclays Bank analyst Peter Luxton said that "the dollar might break down through the 100-yen level this week."

Susan Thomas, a dealer at Indosuez Bank, said that the dollar's downturn had accelerated on stop-loss sales.

The yen has been pushed higher by the failure of the U.S.-Japanese trade summit in Washington on Friday. The United States had hoped that the summit would see progress in reducing Japan's huge trade surplus with Washington.

Dealers said that they expected Washington to push the yen higher on the currency markets to put pressure on Tokyo to cut the trade gap.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
HOUSING BANK CENTER, AMMAN - SPAIN		ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 14/02/1994			
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE
AMAN BANK	162,700	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	104,220	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92
CARDO BANK	104,220	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	104,220	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92
THE HORIZON BANK	103,479	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98
JORDAN INVEST BANK	27,648	1.95	1.95	1.95	1.95
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	81,251	1.95	1.95	1.95	1.95
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	162,880	4.176	4.180	4.180	4.180
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL BANK	24,140	4.176	4.180	4.180	4.180
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	3,093	6.219	6.219	6.219	6.219
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	34,471	4.176	4.180	4.180	4.180
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	2,000	4.186	4.186	4.186	4.186
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	9,405	4.186	4.186	4.186	4.186
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	21,476	3.743	3.748	3.748	3.748
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	87,913	2.360	2.360	2.360	2.360
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	12,824	2.360	2.360	2.360	2.360
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	9,046	2.360	2.360	2.360	2.360
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	3,741	2.779	2.779	2.779	2.779
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	32,140	2.779	2.779	2.779	2.779
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	1,490	2.779	2.779	2.779	2.779
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	34,238	2.729	2.729	2.729	2.729
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	6,518	1.820	1.820	1.820	1.820
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	386,842	3.100	3.100	3.100	3.100
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	1.820	1.820	1.820	1.820
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	4,158	10.450	10.450	10.450	10.450
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	7,673	7.180	7.180	7.180	7.180
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	87,913	12.260	12.260	12.260	12.260
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	12.260	12.260	12.260	12.260
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	4,158	4.620	4.620	4.620	4.620
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	12,824	4.620	4.620	4.620	4.620
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	9,046	4.620	4.620	4.620	4.620
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	3,741	4.620	4.620	4.620	4.620
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	32,140	4.620	4.620	4.620	4.620
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	1,490	4.620	4.620	4.620	4.620
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	34,238	4.620	4.620	4.620	4.620
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	6,518	3.970	3.970	3.970	3.970
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	12,154	14.120	14.120	14.120	14.120
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	14,746	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	14,746	30.000	30.000	30.000	30.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	4.620	4.620	4.620	4.620
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	87,913	12.260	12.260	12.260	12.260
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	9.100	9.100	9.100	9.100
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	6.000	6.000	6.000	6.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	7.000	7.000	7.000	7.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	9.000	9.000	9.000	9.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	11.000	11.000	11.000	11.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	13.000	13.000	13.000	13.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	18.000	18.000	18.000	18.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	19.000	19.000	19.000	19.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	21.000	21.000	21.000	21.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	22.000	22.000	22.000	22.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	23.000	23.000	23.000	23.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	24.000	24.000	24.000	24.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	26.000	26.000	26.000	26.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	27.000	27.000	27.000	27.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	28.000	28.000	28.000	28.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	29.000	29.000	29.000	29.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	30.000	30.000	30.000	30.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	31.000	31.000	31.000	31.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	32.000	32.000	32.000	32.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	33.000	33.000	33.000	33.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	34.000	34.000	34.000	34.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	36.000	36.000	36.000	36.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	37.000	37.000	37.000	37.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	38.000	38.000	38.000	38.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	39.000	39.000	39.000	39.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	40.000	40.000	40.000	40.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	41.000	41.000	41.000	41.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	42.000	42.000	42.000	42.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	43.000	43.000	43.000	43.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	44.000	44.000	44.000	44.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	10,048	45.000	45.000	45.000	45.000

Zulu king lays claim to kingdom

DURBAN, South Africa (AFP) — Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini laid claim Monday to the sovereignty of the Zulu kingdom as it existed in 1834, before it was conquered by the British.

He told tens of thousands of spear-wielding supporters at a rally here before meeting South African President F.W. De Klerk that negotiations had failed to secure a just future for the Zulu nation and that he had "come to the end of the road."

It will be the third meeting in a month between the two men to discuss the future of the Zulu kingdom under a new post-election constitution rejected by King Zwelithini and Kwazulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

According to a copy of a memorandum to be presented to Mr. De Klerk obtained by AFP before the meeting, King Zwelithini said he was preparing "to promulgate the constitution of Kwazulu and Natal which will establish a monarchy modelled after the best examples of democratic and pluralistic monarchies in the world."

By the pre-1834 boundaries the king is understood to mean a territory of some eight million people, including six million Zulus, stretching from the Drakensberg Mountains in the west of the Indian Ocean in the east.

The king tells De Klerk in

the memorandum "the time has come for difficult and irreversible decisions," and challenges him with the options of choosing "the path of liberation" or allowing "our opponents to attempt to crush my kingdom and the freedom and liberation of my people by means of violence and destruction."

The king's public demand for sovereignty comes two days after Saturday's decision by the IFP, along with the Bophuthatswana black homeland and the right-wing Afrikaner Volksfront which form the Freedom Alliance, to boycott South Africa's first all-race elections on April 26 to 28.

The elections are expected to be won by the IFP's arch-rival Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), which has secured a strong central government in a new constitution against Inkatha's demand for regional powers.

The ANC has accused Mr. Buthelezi of manipulating King Zwelithini for his own ends, but the monarch made it clear in his speech to his supporters Monday that he was firmly on Mr. Buthelezi's side, saying he knows of "no Zulu more bold and true."

Announcing its decision to boycott the polls Saturday, hours before Saturday's deadline, the IFP said international mediation was needed to "pull South Africa from the brink of disaster."

The government and the ANC have rejected the demand, but Mr. De Klerk has said the door is still open for a possible last minute deal which would bring the IFP into the elections.

In Cape Town, shortly before leaving for Durban, Mr. De Klerk said the alliance's decision to boycott the poll was a "serious problem" but ruled out postponing the election date.

He told the opening session of an International Press Institute (IPI) conference that his government would "continue to do everything we can to address their reasonable concerns, but we will not allow them to thwart the determination of the overwhelming majority of South Africans to proceed with the election."

Mr. Buthelezi warned Sunday that his party's boycott was likely to bring "casualties and even death."

According to a recent independent poll, the ANC enjoys 51 per cent support in Kwazulu and surrounding Natal, against 23 per cent for the IFP.

"Changing the date is not on the agenda," Mr. De Klerk said in a speech before hundreds of journalists attending IPI's general congress.

He said his government would continue to negotiate with the conservative freedom alliance "but we will not allow them to thwart the determination of the overwhelming

majority of South Africans to proceed with the elections."

Alliance leaders say the government and the African National Congress (ANC) have not gone far enough to satisfy their federalist ambitions, especially white extremists' demands for a whites-only homeland.

The AVF has threatened to actively disrupt voting, a threat echoed by IFP lead Mansour Buthelezi Sunday.

But Mr. De Klerk said Monday that his government would deal "firmly and decisively" with any attempts to undermine the polls.

"What we cannot accept is a return in any form to racial discrimination and minority ethnic domination," he said.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela, also addressing the Congress, echoed Mr. De Klerk's commitment to the April 26-28 poll, saying that "those who want to delay the birth of a democracy assume an awesome responsibility and should be aware of the terrible risks their actions entail."

He said the new leadership's goal should be to "rebuild" South Africa on the ruins of apartheid, which has burdened the country "with scandalous levels of poverty which translates into 17 million people — all blacks — existing below the minimum living level."

Mr. Mandela said that one of the main priorities of an ANC-led government would be to create jobs.

Seoul sees positive signs from North about nuclear impasse

SEOUL (AFP) — There are signs that North Korea will reverse its refusal to allow outside inspections of its nuclear facilities. South Korea's president said Monday, as Russian scientists revealed that Pyongyang has developed a nuclear bomb.

South Korean President Kim Young-Sam told Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa by hotline, that he was hopeful that Pyongyang would agree to the inspections, Mr. Kim's spokesman, Chon Don-Sik said.

However, Mr. Kim said, the North Korean nuclear programme has reached a critical point with only a week to go to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meeting, according to Mr. Chon.

Pyongyang has developed a nuclear bomb with the help of Russian nuclear experts, Japan's Jiji Press reported Monday.

Russian researchers told Jiji that the former Soviet Union was engaged in a joint plan with North Korea to build a nuclear bomb until 1985, and Russian scientists continue to provide clandestine assistance to Pyongyang.

But South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo said Monday in Ottawa that the timing down of hellish rhetoric by North Korea over the weekend was "a significant change."

North Korea said over the weekend that Washington had recently told Pyongyang that it wanted to resolve the nuclear issue through dialogue, and that Pyongyang also wanted a peaceful solution.

Both South Korea and Japan feared that Pyongyang could go to war if backed into a corner, and Mr. Han has urged caution on the imposition of sanctions.

North Korea has said it would consider the imposition of "punitive measures" and an act of war.

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Near naked samba dancers kick off Rio carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Barechested men and women wearing only minuscule loincloths gyrated to the rhythms of samba astride a giant float Sunday night as Rio De Janeiro's glittering carnival parade got underway. The parade competition, which lasts until dawn, and continues Monday night, is the highlight of Rio's pre-Lenten carnival, which began last Thursday and ends on Ash Wednesday. The Unidos Da Ponte school kicked off the annual tradition with a tribute to one of Brazil's most beloved samba singers, Alcione, but the most eagerly awaited school this year was Mangueira, which was to march early Monday morning. The school, traditionally the city's most popular, will pay tribute to the North.

China, which has close ties to North Korea, is the least enthusiastic of the permanent Security Council members about imposing sanctions on Pyongyang.

Meanwhile, a senior Republican member of the Senate Armed Services Committee urged the Clinton administration Sunday to weigh sending nuclear weapons to South Korea to thwart any threat from the North.

John McCain of Arizona, a former navy pilot who is generally cautious on military matters, said the United States should "seriously consider return of nuclear weapons to South Korea... for our tactical air forces there."

Sen. McCain made his comments on the CNN programme Late Edition. Defence Department officials say former President George Bush began rearming U.S. tactical nuclear weapons from South Korea in 1991 and that none currently remain.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn said Sunday that it was time for the United States to "start planning and discussing sanctions" against the North.

Sen. Nunn, a Georgia Democrat who also appeared on "Late Edition," said the United States should be working to ensure that China, an historic North Korean ally, would go along with sanctions in the U.N. Security Council.

Mr. Hosokawa told Mr. Kim that U.S. President Bill Clinton "shared the same views" on the matter, Mr. Chon said.

The Japanese prime minister also said, "close consultations should be held between South Korea and Japan" on the inspections impasse, the spokesman added.

Both South Korean truck drivers, who had fled from a logging camp in Siberia, have asked for asylum after flying to South Korea from Moscow, intelligence officers said Monday.

They also indicated they would seek phased rather than immediate wholesale sanctions against North Korea if the issue were referred to the Security Council.

Both South Korean truck drivers, who had fled from a logging camp in Siberia, have asked for asylum after flying to South Korea from Moscow, intelligence officers said Monday.

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Major urged to drop 'back to basics'

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major is under strong pressure to abandon his divisive "back to basics" crusade to save the Conservative government from any more morality scandals, British newspapers said Monday.

Senior Conservatives now admit that Mr. Major's flagship campaign for wholesome values has backfired on the government, laying it open to mockery over any individual failing or misdemeanour, the newspapers said.

The Daily Express said Monday the latest stain on the government's character, a weekend furore over a Conservative politician's friendship with a young researcher, had sounded the death knell for his crusade.

"Mr. Major should dump back to basics and get back to politics," the Today newspaper said in an editorial.

Other newspaper also quoted senior Conservative sources as saying the crusade, conceived late last year as a

non-contentious way of rallying the squabbling party behind Mr. Major, had been acknowledged as a misjudgement.

The campaign called for a return to traditional values and, although the government now says it was never about personal morality, encouraged the popular press to delve deep into the lives of conservative politicians to find any moral failing.

Critics have said the debacle reveals Mr. Major's poor judgement in choosing such a vague concept as his policy theme and allowing right-wingers in the government to link "basics" in the public mind with personal morality.

In the first major blow to the crusade, junior environment minister was forced to resign his job in January after admitting fathering a love child during an extra-marital affair.

Then another minister stepped down amid reports his wife's suicide was prompted by his friendship with another

woman.

The campaign, now redefined by the government as a concern for "commonsense" values in education and law and order, was left in total disarray last week when an up-and-coming politician Stephen Milligan was found asphyxiated at his home after what appeared to be a bizarre sexual experiment.

In the latest blow to the crusade, Conservative Member of Parliament Harley Booth stepped down as a ministerial aide in the Foreign Office late Saturday as his wife's suicide was reported in the popular press to have been caused by a 22-year-old researcher who used to work as a nude art model.

The Guardian newspaper said senior Conservatives had decided to abandon attempts to salvage the campaign and intended to let the slogan slip quietly into disuse.

But other reports said the government felt it would be too damaging to abandon the policy platform now.

Then another minister stepped down amid reports his wife's suicide was prompted by his friendship with another

Belarus player wins Virginia Slims tourney

CHICAGO (AP) — Natalia Zvereva, whose tennis success has been shaped more by doubles, was not sure if she would ever win a singles title again. It had been four years, and even though she is only 22, she didn't like her chances.

"It's not that I didn't believe in myself," the Belarus player said Sunday after winning the Virginia Slims of Chicago 6-3, 7-5 over Chanda Rubin. "The competition is so much better now."

"I proved myself wrong," said Zvereva, who used a steady serve and a variety of shots, including a low-to-the-ground slice backhand to offset the hard ground strokes of the 17-year-old Rubin.

"She didn't like the low balls, especially to her backhand," Zvereva said. "I tried to keep the pace off. It helps a lot on a fast surface. A lot of girls hit balls deep, flat and hard. Sometimes it's not wise to hit it harder."

Zvereva, ranked second in the world in doubles and 19th in singles, took a 5-0 lead in the first set as Rubin, who won only two points in the first four games, sprayed errors all over the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion supreme surface.

But trailing 0-5 and love-40 after back-to-back double faults, "Rubin lost her nerves and began to hit out in her first major tour final. The errors turned into winners as she fought off the three set points and then won three straight games.

"I couldn't get into the match early on, Rubin said. "I

was missing a lot of balls. After going down love-five, I hit a good ball for a point and I said to myself, 'Why not go for it now, you've got nothing to lose?' And I won the next three games."

Zvereva finally won the set 6-3 when Rubin, who had fended off two more set points in the ninth game, hit long.

Zvereva broke for a 3-2 lead in the second set, but Rubin broke right back, tying the set with a 4-3 lead when Zvereva twice hit long and made another backhand error.

Zvereva then made two tough volleys to win the next game. But Rubin, who hit serves timed at 166 kph, came up to a 3-0 hole and take a 5-4 lead.

Zvereva held for 5-5, then broke Rubin at love with a backhand winner down the line and three straight Rubin errors. The third one a swing volley into the next.

"I went up 5-4. I started making a lot of errors. I don't know what happened to me," said Rubin, who made 36 unforced errors in the 80-minute match.

"I could not afford to go to a third set," Zvereva said. "My body is tired from all the tennis I have played this week. I knew I had to close it out."

And she did. Rubin made more errors to start the final game and Zvereva punctuated her first singles victory since 1990 with an ace. She had five for match and got 61 per cent of her serves in.

Martin wins ATP event

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Todd Martin, runner-up at last month's Australian Open, went one step better to beat fellow-American Brad Gilbert 6-4, 7-5 in Sunday's \$800,000 Memphis ATP tournament.

Martin, ranked ninth in the world, won the second pro title of his career and the \$110,500 first prize, by beating the two-time former champion 6-4, 7-5 in the final.

Twelve months ago, Martin, lost to Jim Courier in his first ATP final but he was saved from a rematch when the 39th-ranked Gilbert beat the world number-three in the quarter-finals.

Martin, beaten by Pete Sampras in the Australian Open final last month, outscored Gilbert and scored a big percentage of his points off Gilbert's second serves.

In the second-set Gilbert broke to lead 4-3, but Martin stormed back immediately and

went on to snatch victory on a Gilbert double-fault.

Gilbert has now lost seven straight finals since his last ATP triumph in 1990.

After his win Martin, who had lost five straight finals since winning at Coral Springs, Florida, last May said: "It's nice to complete the job this time." "Brad lulls you to sleep with the softness of his balls. But when you make him hit a shot, he hits it hard and accurately. When you're even or ahead, he lulls you to sleep more. Whenever I was behind, I felt more intensity."

"I knew I would be at net more than he would be. I knew I had to be patient and when I had the chance to come in, I needed to hit a good approach shot and a good volley."

Gilbert said: "I wanted to slow him down because he likes the pace but my serve let me down. His future is looking really good. If he were a stock, you would want to buy some."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦K764 ♣87 ♠AK874 ♠1065
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—The auction has developed awkwardly. You can't bid diamonds or support hearts, you have no second suit, and with the club suit stopped, any no-trump bid is out of the question. The solution is to lie a little and show your strong holding in spades, hoping partner will be able to bid no trump. Two spades is the least of evils.

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A765 ♣K97 ♠AJS5 ♠QJ4
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
? What do you bid now?

A.—If you treated your hand as a minimum and tamely corrected to four hearts, you are understanding that your take-down bid is with known nine-card fits, we would make a great move by cue-bidding four clubs, intending to venture no further than four hearts next, if we still have room for that bid.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦1065 ♣A9842 ♠Q ♠A102
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
? What do you bid now?

A.—The choice lies between one no trump and two spades. With a weak doubleton in one suit and superb three-card support for partner's suit, the raise to two spades stands out by the proverbial mile.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦K764 ♣87 ♠AK874 ♠1065
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
? What do you bid now?

A.—If you treated your hand as a minimum and tamely corrected to four hearts, you are understanding that your take-down bid is with known nine-card fits, we would make a great move by cue-bidding four clubs, intending to venture no further than four hearts next, if we still have room for that bid.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦K764 ♣87 ♠AK874 ♠1065
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
? What do you bid now?

A.—The choice lies between one no trump and two spades. With a weak doubleton in one suit and superb three-card support for partner's suit, the raise to two spades stands out by the proverbial mile.

Pippen emerges from Jordan's shadow to star in All-Star Game

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Scottie Pippen, in the shadow of Michael Jordan's spotlight for the first six years of his career, knew it was time to grab it himself in the NBA All-Star Game.

"Having Michael on our club really overshadowed guys like Horace Grant, B.J. Armstrong and myself," Pippen said late Sunday after leading the East to a 127-118 victory over the West. "It was time for us to step up as All-Stars a little more. I had my mind set to play much better than I played in past All-Star games."

Pippen, making his fourth All-Star appearance but his first since his superstar teammate on the Chicago Bulls retired last October, scored 29 points on 9-for-15 shooting and grabbed 11 rebounds to win most valuable player honours.

"I tried to assert myself a little more," Pippen said. "My skills are able to put me up among the elite players. I don't think I needed to go out today and prove anything to anybody."

East coach Lenny Wilkens, who this season became the second NBA coach with 900 career victories, had seven first-time All-Stars on his 12-man roster. But he went with his veterans when things got tight, especially Pippen, Mark Price and Patrick Ewing — who combined for 69 points.

"I just like the attitude of the guys," Wilkens said. "They showcase, but they're true competitors. When the game is on the line, they want to win." Pippen, Mark and Patrick were steady down the stretch.

Pippen, wearing fire-engine red shoes, averaged 9.3 points in his first three All-Star games. Despite his 29 points, he only scored two in the fourth quarter, but they were big — a baseline jumper with 2:10 left after the West pulled within two points.

"It was the shoes," Pippen joked about his performance. "Everybody was looking at my feet too much. I was shooting well and I just continued to let my shot flow."

The East took its largest lead, 103-90, in the first minutes of the fourth quarter, but the West rallied with a 17-5 run, closing to 108-107 with 7:17 left. Gary Payton's six points and Daid Robinson's five keyed the comeback.

But the East regained control as New York teammates Ewing and John Starks combined to score the next nine East points for a 117-110 lead.

A basket by Clifford Robinson and a 3-pointer by John Stockton made it 117-115 before Pippen, after missing two free throws, connected on his baseline shot.

David Robinson and Hakeem Olajuwon shared scoring honours with 19 points each for the West, which trails the All-Star series 28-16.

Ewing scored 12 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter and Price also had 20 for the East, which had 10 3-pointers to one for the West. Pippen was 5-for-9 from that range.

"He was in a zone," West coach George Karl



NBA Eastern Conference's Scottie Pippen of the Chicago Bulls goes to the bucket past Shawn Kemp of Seattle during the 2nd quarter of the All-Star Game (AP photo)

said. "It's difficult when you're substituting a great deal to keep the same guy on him."

Shaquille O'Neal, the NBA's leading scorer this season, had a miserable day for the East, missing 10 of 12 shots and seven of 11 free throws to finish with eight points. But he managed 10 rebounds.

"They were quadruple teaming me, triple-teaming me," O'Neal said. "I thought somebody was going to play me straight up, but it didn't happen. It means somebody respects me if they had to put four guys on me."

The West, down by eight at halftime, rallied in the third quarter, closing within four twice before Price hit a jumper and a 3-pointer in a span of 37 seconds, helping the East rebuild the margin to 101-90 going into the final 12 minutes.

Olajuwon dominated inside for the West early in the game with 12 points in the first nine minutes on two dunks, two layups, a hook and two free throws.

The West led 25-23 late in the first period, but the East went on a spurt and led 72-64 at the half.

Germany, Norway and Russia reap Olympic victory

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — Germany, Norway and Russia struck gold at the Lillehammer Games Monday. The United States reaped heartbreak.

— Germany's George Hackl became the first solo luger to win back-to-back Olympic gold medals.

In Thomas Alsgaard, a bright new Norwegian cross-country star was born.

On the speedskating oval, Russia's Alexander Golubev set an Olympic record while leading his team to a 1-2 finish in the men's 500-metres sprint.

For the Americans, woes began when their luge medal hope crashed out of competition. Then, bard-luck Dan Janssen slipped during the speedskating sprint and failed for the fourth-straight Olympics to mine gold or even the lesser metals of silver and bronze.

While young athletes celebrated or raged on Lillehammer's ice and snow, "President Juan Antonio Samaranch headed for a real war zone — Sarajevo, the shattered site of the 1984 Winter Olympics.

During his visit to Bosnia, Samaranch wants "to renew the call for the 'Olympic truce,'" the IOC said. Samaranch previously had urged Bosnia's warring factions to observe a cease-fire during the Feb. 12-27 Lillehammer Games.

On the third day of the games, the first gold medal went to Hackl, a 27-year-old Bavarian who began sledding at age 10. Supporters hoisted

him to their shoulders as his arch-rival Austria's Markus Prock — faded by a breath on the last of four runs in the two-day men's single event. The German's Margin of victory was the equivalent of 13 inches (32.5 centimetres).

— As soon as I saw the slip, I said, "Why God?" again. God can't be cruel, she said. "I'm sure we'll find out. One day we'll understand."

Despite his rd-setting performances in the 500 broke the old Olympic speedskating record of 36.45 set by Uwe-Jens Mey of the former East Germany at Calgary in 1988. Another Russian, Sergei Klevchevaya also bested Mey's mark, winning the silver medal in 36.39. Manabu Horii of Japan won bronze in 36.53.

Jansen, who holds the world record of 35.76 and every other speedskating honour except an Olympic medal, slipped coming out of the turn and had to brace himself against the ice with his left hand. His time of 36.68 put him well out of medal contention.

"It's a bit of a shock to me," Jansen said. "I'm not making excuses, but it's a place I've slipped before... I would have won by quite a bit if I didn't slip."

Jansen's wife, Robin, was in the stands with several family

members. She couldn't bear to watch after her husband's misstep.

In the men's 30-kilometre freestyle, the 22-year-old Alsgaard left the starting line as an Olympic novice and finished a star, beating one of the favourites — countryman Bjorn Dahlie — for the gold. Dahlie, triple gold medalist at Albertville, France, two ago, took silver. Bronze went to Finland's Mika Mylly.

Golubev's time of 36.33 seconds in the 500 broke the old Olympic speedskating record of 36.45 set by Uwe-Jens Mey of the former East Germany at Calgary in 1988. Another Russian, Sergei Klevchevaya also bested Mey's mark, winning the silver medal in 36.39. Manabu Horii of Japan won bronze in 36.53.

Host Norway, which already has won two gold and three silver medals to lead the Lillehammer medal race, was given new hope for an Alpine victory as Lasse Jus took Monday's downhill portion of the men's combined. He edged Americans Kyle Rasmussen and Tommy Moe, gold medalist in Sunday's slalom.

Jansen, who holds the world record of 35.76 and every other speedskating honour except an Olympic medal, slipped coming out of the turn and had to brace himself against the ice with his left hand. His time of 36.68 put him well out of medal contention.

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In other Hockey play Monday, the Czech Republic faced Austria, and the favoured Russians were pitted against the Finns, 3-1 upset winners over the Czechs on opening day.

German luger Hackl began the third day of the games leading Prock by one-hundredth of a second, then fell behind by .48 of a second on the third run. But Oreck faltered on the final run and finished .013 of a second behind Hackl.

The error, said photo-finish judge Raymond Hutchinson in Monday's edition of the Times, came when he had only a rushed look at the print before the time was announced at the meet.

World record wiped out

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — Colin Jackson equalled, but did not break, the world indoor 60-metre hurdles record over the weekend, British track officials said Monday.

They were quadruple teaming me, triple-teaming me," O'Neal said. "I thought somebody was going to play me straight up, but it didn't happen. It means somebody respects me if they had to put four guys on me."

The West, down by eight at halftime, rallied in the third quarter, closing within four twice before Price hit a jumper and a 3-pointer in a span of 37 seconds, helping the East rebuild the margin to 101-90 going into the final 12 minutes.

Olajuwon dominated inside for the West early in the game with 12 points in the first nine minutes on two dunks, two layups, a hook and two free throws.

The West led 25-23 late in the first period, but the East went on a spurt and led 72-64 at the half.

Meanwhile Real Madrid,

themselves in crisis only a week ago and with coach Benito Flores facing the axe, leapfrogged Cruyff's men into second place with a 1-0 win over Real Oviedo.

That win follows last week's 2-0 triumph over league leaders Deportivo La Coruna, who themselves bounced back Sunday by beating Sevilla 2-0. Before scoring one minute before the break and Fran a minute after.

Deportivo are now on 34

points to Real's 29 and Barca's 28.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Assad sends Ramadan greetings to King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a call from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad congratulating him on the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan. Assad wished King Hussein continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

Saddam's son-in-law recovers from surgery

AMMAN (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son-in-law, Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamil Hassan Al Majid, was recovering here Monday from a brain tumour, a medical official said. Gen. Majid, 36, entered the King Hussein Medical Centre here last Tuesday and underwent an operation on Saturday, the official told AFP. He will remain at least another week in the hospital which is under tight security, added the official, who could not give further details on the operation's outcome.

Lebanon guerrillas wound militiaman

MARYAOUN (R) — Pro-Iranian guerrillas firing mortar bombs and anti-tank rockets attacked two Israeli-backed militia posts in South Lebanon on Monday, wounding one soldier, security sources said. A roadside bomb planted by Hizbullah guerrillas also hit a civilian car near the village of Tair Herfa inside Israel's occupation zone in the south, they said. The sources said the car was badly damaged but the driver escaped unhurt. His identity was not known. Hizbullah guerrillas fired rocket-propelled grenades and anti-tank rockets at the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia position in Braachet and mortar bombs at the SLA's Kfar Houneeb post. One militiaman was wounded at Kfar Houneeb but there were no casualties at Braachet. Israeli and SLA gunners retaliated, shelling a guerrilla-held area north of the 15-kilometre deep buffer strip.

Israelis join Palestinian's appeal

TEL AVIV (AP) — Three Israeli authors joined a Palestinian poet in appealing Sunday to the supreme court against an "exceedingly slow" probe into the fatal shooting of a 17-year-old Palestinian in November. Poet Izzat Ghazawi's son Rami died after being shot in the stomach by troops who stormed his high school in the West Bank town of Al Bireh to quell a stone-throwing demonstration. The Association for Civil Rights in Israel said the boy was shot while trying to help a wounded friend. He later died in hospital. Mr. Ghazawi told Israel Radio he wanted to know "why the military did not investigate the problem until now." Also listed on the petition are authors David Grossman, Shulamit Hareven and Gafit Hazan-Rokem, the civil rights group's lawyer, Elihu Abram, said that key witnesses to the shooting had not been contacted.

Yemen tries to free kidnapped Chinese

SANAA (AFP) — The Yemeni government is trying to win the release of three Chinese technicians who were kidnapped while helping to build a road in Yemen's rugged northeast, Chinese embassy officials said here Monday. "We hope they will be freed in the next few days," a Chinese diplomat said. "The Yemeni government is working hard for their release." The three were kidnapped Saturday morning while working on a road between Hija, 127 kilometres north of Sanaa and Maareb, 173 kilometres east of the capital, embassy officials said. Yemeni sources said the Chinese were kidnapped by three people wanted by the police for various murders. There were no details on what the kidnappers wanted and where they were holding the technicians.

U.S. Navy rescues Indian livestock vessel

BAHRAIN (AP) — A U.S. Navy frigate has rescued an Indian livestock vessel and its 23-member crew which had been adrift for 15 days on the Arabian Sea, the navy said Monday. The 27-metre Shaleh Al Hasam was sailing from Somalia to Dubai with 700 sheep aboard when it experienced engine trouble, according to a statement from the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. On Saturday, a helicopter from the USS Curtis spotted the troubled vessel about 150 kilometres southeast of Oman and the frigate towed it to shore. The crew of 17 Indians and six Somalis were given food and water, which had begun to run scarce, the statement said.

Qian plans trip to Pakistan, Iran

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen will make a two-week trip to five Asian and Middle Eastern countries, including close allies Pakistan and Iran, starting next week, the Xinhua news agency said Monday. Beginning Feb. 21 Mr. Qian will visit Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Iran, in that order, returning home March 6. Xinhua said, without providing details on the itinerary. The first stop, Pakistan, is a country with which China enjoys traditionally excellent relations, as demonstrated when Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto made a trip to Beijing in December, just after her return to power. Pakistan and China are engaged in nuclear cooperation which has worried Western countries, and during Ms. Bhutto's trip to the Chinese capital a joint communiqué demanded the lifting of U.S. sanctions imposed on both countries last August to protest the alleged Chinese sale of missile technology to the Pakistanis. In another dispatch, Xinhua said Mr. Qian had received Monday a special envoy of Bhutto, adding that they "exchanged opinions on issues of common concern." Iran, the last stop on Mr. Qian's trip, is another old friend of China. The two countries decided to step up cooperation — especially on nuclear power — during a trip to China by Iranian President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani in September 1992. Western countries also accuse China of selling missile technology to Iran.

Druze leader welcomes papal visit

BEIRUT (R) — Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, whose forces drive Christians from the Shouf mountains during Lebanon's civil war, called for coexistence with the Christians and welcomed Pope John Paul's planned visit to Lebanon. Mr. Jumblatt attended Sunday mass at a Maronite Christian church in the Shouf village of Beit Eddine, the first held there since it was badly damaged in fighting between Druze and Christian forces in 1985. "We are all waiting for the blessed visit of the great guest, the holy father, in Lebanon and specifically in Beit Eddine," he said after the mass. Pope John Paul is due to make a week-long trip to Lebanon by June and Vatican envoys have visited the Shouf to prepare for his visit to the area. Mr. Jumblatt said in December that he was not sure he wanted to see the Pope visit the predominantly Druze Shouf mountain. But he said on Sunday: "We will cooperate together so that we have an appropriate reception which confirms that the Shouf was and will remain an area of coexistence."

Kuwaiti cabinet to resign in mid-March

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwaiti cabinet will resign in mid-March and a new government will be formed, the Monday edition of Al Siyassah daily reported, adding that the country's leaders wanted to strengthen the executive. The paper, citing informed sources, said the resignation would occur after "Id Al Fitr," the feast marking the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan which began Feb. 11 in Kuwait. Senior Kuwaiti officials want to "bolster the executive branch by uniting its positions and speeding up the decision-making process," the paper said. Al Siyassah said the current government had accomplished its mission by reviving the 1962 constitution and parliamentary life.

France to consider excluding Jordanians from exit permit rule

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — France has promised to consider excluding Jordanians from new exit permit regulations it will impose on foreign nationals residing in its territories, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

The official, who asked not to be identified by name, disclosed that the promise was made during the talks French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe held here during his two-day visit which ended Sunday.

On Saturday, France decreed that nationals of 13 countries, including Jordanians, will need exit visas to leave France. The decree, signed by Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, was published Saturday in the government's official journal, meaning it took effect as law.

The Jordanian government was notified of the new regulations by its embassy in Paris and their acting foreign minister, Fawaz Abu Al Ghanam, raised the issue with Mr. Juppe who promised to discuss the matter with the French interior minister, the official told to *Jordan Times*.

A French official was quoted Saturday as saying that the requirement, to take effect on April 1, was needed because these countries were considered "sensitive."

"We are a victim of terrorism and fighting hard against it," said the Jordanian official, adding that Jordan's other concern was that other European countries would follow France's lead in adopting such measures.

"To our knowledge, the number of Jordanian nationals residing in Paris does not exceed 40-50 people. But this is a political issue. We hope that France will reconsider its decision," the official said.

On Monday, Pierre Gass-

man, the press attaché at the French embassy in Amman, said that his government had not yet given him reasons for the new regulations.

In addition to Jordan, other countries affected by the measure include Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, North Korea, Lebanon, Libya, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan and Yemen. Palestinians will also need the exit permits.

The exit visas are aimed in particular at curbing illegal entry by immigrants who have been sent or otherwise acquired documents belonging to foreigners who have remained in France, according to some reports.

The introduction of visas will mean that on reentry papers will bear proof that the holder had actually left the country, Reuter reported.

The decree stemmed from a little noticed provision in a controversial hardline law proposed by the conservative government and adopted by parliament last August, the agency said.

The law restricts the right of foreigners to enter and reside in France and curtails clandestine immigration by clamping down on marriages of convenience and family reunification.

An administrative memorandum requiring exit visas of nationals from more than 50 foreign countries, published in 1986, was ruled unconstitutional in 1991, the official said.

Yves Journe, honorary president of the human rights league, said the exit visa requirement was supposed to be a mere formality but the government could easily use the authority to harass foreigners.

"Today France is becoming a country with some of the most restrictive anti-foreign laws," Mr. Journe told France 3 television.

Juppe: France, Israel tightening military ties

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel and France will tighten military and political ties, French Minister Alain Juppe said Monday after talks with Israeli leaders in which he also promised to lend active support to Middle East peace talks.

"We have agreed to give new momentum to Israeli-French relations, tightening cooperation on security, particularly in research," he said. France's Defence Minister Francois Leotard would visit Israel next month.

He noted that the two countries were already cooperating on scientific endeavours, including space research.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin thanked Mr. Juppe for France's help in negotiations to upgrade Israel's 19-year-old relationship with the European

Community (EC).

Mr. Rabin reported to Mr. Juppe about Middle East peace efforts and said that "security issues were the key to continued political process with the Palestinians and neighbouring countries," a statement from Mr. Rabin's office said. Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) reached agreement on security measures last week in Cairo.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Juppe also discussed plans to give financial assistance to Palestinians for economic development under the autonomy to be implemented in the occupied territories as part of the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord.

European nations have promised to contribute \$600 million to the Palestinians.

Mr. Maaytah was shot dead

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Cairo deal a retreat for PLO, Habash asserts

From Michael Jansen in Damascus

In an interview, Dr. George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), told this correspondent why he rejected the Cairo agreement on security arrangements for the Palestinian self-rule area concluded on Feb. 9 but also the declaration of principles negotiated in Oslo.

The interview took place at his office in an elegant old house in a quiet, residential quarter of this city. Dr. Habash, well recovered from three serious strokes and sporting a cheerful burgundy red cardigan, spoke in both Arabic and English.

The Cairo accord, which gives Israel full control of the border crossings from Jordan and Egypt into the West Bank and Gaza and full control of access roads to Jewish settlements with the right to pursue of Palestinian militants continuing their resistance to the occupation, amounts to a "retreat for the PLO".

Dr. Habash asserted, "had no chance to make gains (for the Palestinian people) but could only make concessions... All the world accepts Israel and all the world, except Israel, accepts the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination" but the pressure for concessions is on the Palestinians not on Israel.

The Oslo accord, he went on, was seriously flawed because "all the substantive

issues — Jerusalem, fixing borders, the Palestinian right of return, Israeli settlements — have been postponed until the last minute. How long will it take to reach agreement on these major issues when it takes so long to agree on trivial issues."

"Even if (the Oslo accord) were to be implemented easily, it would never solve our Palestinian problem" because it "will never bring just and comprehensive peace... We used to tell Arafat before he signed that agreement that he had to take certain steps before signing. First, adopt a policy based on implementation of the international legitimacy, by this I mean the UN resolutions" on Palestine calling for "Israeli withdrawal, recognition of Palestinian rights to repatriation and compensation and so on. Second, work for Arab unity and coordination, especially with Syria. Third, forge Palestinian unity and fourth, escalate the intifada... to force Israel to settle."

These steps, particularly his insistence on Arab unity, have been part and parcel of Dr. Habash's strategy since he was head of the Arab nationalist movement more than 30 years ago.

Dr. Habash believed the Oslo accord could be undermined in three ways: "the intransigence of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin; the Likud taking power (latest

polls show that it would win an election) and development of the rejectionist camp," now comprising ten groups based in Damascus and the occupied territories. The main aim of this alliance is to "revitalise the intifada," restoring it to the high intensity of 1988-89, concentrating on the Israeli economy when Israel suffered losses of \$3 billion. I regret to say, and I mean this, without the armed struggle harming the Israeli economy, causing the Israeli army physical losses, Israel will never respond to our demands."

Producer Azziz Smati, 40, was waiting for an emergency operation in hospital after being shot twice by gunmen in front of his Algiers home, his family said.

The group, from the Maghrib border town with Morocco, were accused of smuggling arms across the frontier to armed fundamentalists and helping veterans of the Afghan war against the Soviet Union to slip into Algeria.

Islamic militants have threatened tax officials, traders and women in a fundamentalist backlash seeking to impose a climate of terror as Ramadan gets underway, newspaper reports said Monday.

Twenty-seven Islamic fundamentalists were handed prison sentences of up to 20 years

group would "act on its own" in the resistance, this was "the first time we have been able to establish such a broad coalition... previously Hamas and Islamic Jihad refused" to cooperate with the secularists, he stated.

As long as the present confrontation between Palestinians and Israelis continues, the rejectionist forces would be able to operate as usual in the territories, but, Mr. Ahmad asserted, implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord would "complicate" the struggle because the Palestinians would no longer be "in touch" with the Israeli army, and "the Palestinian police would be a barrier between the intifada and the 'new strategy' which was being developed."

He was not worried about the possibility that the Syrians would curb the activities of the alliance."

"They will keep us until the last moment" to maintain pressure on Israel. "In any case," he went on, "we're transferring our operational bases to the territories. We have only our political and information offices here... Our effectiveness is not dependent on Syria" — point made forcefully by the killing of two Israelis on Thursday by Islamic Jihad and the killing of a member of an Israeli undercover death squad by Hamas on Sunday.

COLUMN

Melina Mercouri hospitalised in New York

ATHENS (AFP) — Melina Mercouri, Greek minister of culture, was admitted to Memorial Hospital in New York for a series of tests, her ministry said here Monday. Ms. Mercouri travelled to the United States last week with her husband Jules Dassin, cinema director, and their brother Spyros Mercouri, 69, a doctor at Memorial. The 89-year-old Mercouri, who had a tumor removed from his spine in Paris in August 1991, and was later treated for pulmonary blood clots.

Benin diplomat found with heroin

COTONOU (AFP) — A Benin diplomat serving in the United States was questioned at New York airport after being found with four kilograms (eight pounds) of heroin: the Foreign Ministry said here Monday. The drug was hidden in the false bottom of a suitcase he arrived in the United States on Feb. 3, the ministry added.

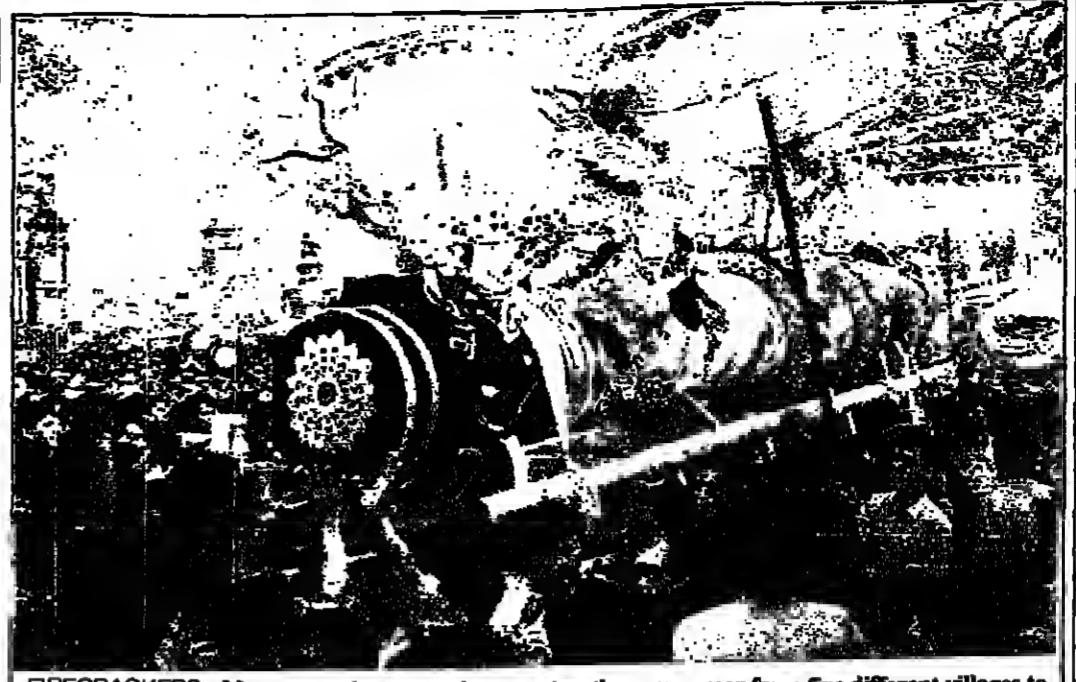
Another SPLA commander, Malual Ayom Dur, told reporters he was part of two government battalions which left Terakeka 200 kilometres away to attack.

The rebel forces also captured some mortars, an anti-aircraft gun and a large quantity of ammunition.

Another SPLA commander, Malual Ayom Dur, told reporters government forces had retreated to Amadi 40 kilometres away.

"Our men are in pursuit of them. Hopefully we will recapture Amadi within the next couple of days," he said.

The government launched



FIRECRACKERS: Men carry in procession a huge firecracker during a festival organised at Dong Ky village, some 20 kilometres northwest of Hanoi, Vietnam. In Dong Ky, village clans get

Libya denies link to Maaytah murder

CAIRO (AP) — Libya on Monday denied reports linking it to the assassination of a Jordanian diplomat and charged the Western media with attempting to disrupt its "brotherly relations" with Jordan.

The Libyan statement follows a remark Sunday by King Hussein that the leader of the group that assassinated Nayeb Maaytah gave this order to kill the diplomat out of the Arab capital where he is based.

In its denial, the official Libyan news agency JANA blamed the Western media for "implicating Libya with the aim of harming it and harming its brotherly relations with Jordan," the AP reported.

On Sunday, King Hussein told the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee that a terrorist group, known to Jordan, had killed Mr. Maaytah, 42. He did not name the group but said it had committed "similar crimes against our diplomats and against us in the past."

Although Libya in past four years tried to change its image as a supporter of terrorists, it recently strengthened rhetoric against the West. Last month, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi openly invited Abu Nidal and Ahmad Jibril, another Palestinian guerrilla leader, to Libya.

Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, has been blamed for the killing of a number of Jordanian diplomats. He split from the Palestine Liberation Organisation in 1973 and at various times had links to Iraq, Syria and Libya. His group was blamed for the 1985 attacks on Rome and Vienna airports that killed 17 people.

Mr. Maaytah was shot dead

in Beirut on Jan. 29 as he was driving out of his garage to work.

Sudan rebels claim town attack foiled

MUNDRI, Sudan (Agencies)

— Sudanese rebels have repulsed a government offensive on the southern town of Mundri near the Zairean border.